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contract, which has rendered them part of the Devil's possession, and contrive how they may obliterate that reproach, and disentangle their mortgaged souls. *Decay of Piety.*

These simple ideas, the understanding can no more refuse to have, or alter, or blot them out, than a mirror can refuse, alter, or obliterate the images, which the objects set before it produce. *Locke.*

OBLITERATION. *n. f.* [obliteratio, Latin.] Effacement; extinction.

Considering the casualties of wars, transigrations, especially that of the general flood, there might probably be an obliteration of all those monuments of antiquity that ages precedent at some time have yielded. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

OBLIVION. *n. f.* [oblivio, Latin.]

1. Forgetfulness; cessation of remembrance.

Water-drops have worn the stones of Troy,

And blind oblivion swallow'd cities up,

And mighty states characterless are graced

To dusty nothing. *Shaksp. Troil. and Cressida.*

Thou shouldst have heard many things of worthy memory, which now shall die in oblivion, and thou return unexperienced to thy grave. *Shaksp. Taming of the Shrew.*

Knowledge is made by oblivion, and to purchase a clear and warrantable body of truth, we must forget and part with much we know. *Brown's Vulgar Err. Pref.*

Can they imagine, that God has therefore forgot their sins, because they are not willing to remember them? Or will they measure his pardon by their own oblivion. *Smith.*

Among our crimes oblivion may be set;

But 'tis our king's perfection to forget. *Dryden.*

2. Amnesia; general pardon of crimes in a state.

By the act of oblivion, all offences against the crown, and all particular trespasses between subject and subject, were pardoned, remitted, and utterly extinguished. *Davies.*

OBLIVIOUS. *adj.* [obliviosus, Latin.] Causing forgetfulness.

Raze out the written troubles of the brain,

And with some sweet oblivious antidote

Cleanse the stuff'd bosom. *Shakspere's Macbeth.*

The British souls

Exult to see the crouching ghosts descend

Unnumber'd; well aveng'd, they quit the cares

Of mortal life, and drink th' oblivious lake. *Philips.*

Oh born to see what none can see awake!

Behold the wonders of th' oblivious lake. *Pope's Dunci.*

OBLONG. *adj.* [oblongus, Fr. oblongus, Latin.] Longer than broad; the same with a rectangle parallelogram, whose sides are unequal. *Harr.*

The best figure of a garden I esteem an oblong upon a descent. *Temple's Miscell.*

Every particle, supposing them globular or not very oblong, would be above nine million times their own length from any other particle. *Bentley's Sermons.*

OBLONGLY. *adv.* [from oblong.] In an oblong direction.

The surface of the temperate climates is larger than it would have been, had the globe of our earth or of the planets, been either spherical, or oblongly spherical. *Cheyne.*

OBLONGNESS. *n. f.* [from oblong.] The state of being oblong.

O'BLONGVY. *n. f.* [oblongus, Lat.]

1. Cenurious speech; blame; slander; reproach.

Reasonable moderation hath freed us from being deservedly subject unto that bitter kind of obloquy, whereby as the church of Rome doth, under the colour of love towards those things which be harmless, maintain extremely most hurtful corruptions; so we peradventure might be upbraided, that under colour of hatred towards those things that are corrupt, we are on the other side as extreme, even against most harmless ordinances. *Hosker, b. iv. f. 14.*

Here new aspersions, with new obloquies,

Are laid on old deserts. *Daniel's Civil War.*

Canst thou with impious obloquy condemn

The just decree of God, pronounce'd and sworn? *Milton.*

Shall names that made your city the glory of the earth, be mentioned with obloquy and detraction?

Every age might perhaps produce one or two true genius, if they were not sunk under the censure and obloquy of plodding, servile, imitating pedants. *Swift.*

2. Cause of reproach; disgrace. Not proper.

My chastity's the jewel of our house,

Bequeathed down from many ancestors;

Which were the greatest obloquy it's world

In me to lose. *Shakspere's All's well that ends well.*

OBLIVIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from oblivio, Latin.] Loss of speech.

A vehement fear often produceth oblivio. *Brown.*

OBLIVIOUS. *n. f.* [oblivio, Latin.]

1. Subject.

I propound a character of justice in a middle form, between the speculative discourses of philosophers, and the writings of lawyers, which are tied and obnoxious to their particular laws. *Bacon's Holy War.*

2. Liable to punishment.

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All are obnoxious, and this faulty land,

Like fainting Hester, does before you stand,

Watching your sceptre. *Wallar.*

We know ourselves obnoxious to God's severe justice, and that

he is a God of mercy and hatred sin; and therefore that we

might not have the least suspicion of his unwillingness to forgive, he hath sent his only begotten son into the world, by

his dismal sufferings and cursed death, to expiate our offences. *Culamy's Sermon.*

Thy name, O Varus, if the kinder powers

Preserve our plains, and shield the Mantuan tow'ns,

Obnoxious by Cretona's neighb'ring crime,

The wings of swans, and stronger piston'd rhyme

Shall raise aloft. *Dryd.*

3. Liable; exposed.

Long hostility had made their friendship weak in itself,

and more obnoxious to jealousies and distrusts. *Hayward.*

But what will not ambition and revenge

Defend to? who aspires, must down as low

As high he soar'd; obnoxious first or last,

To base things. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

To dew obnoxious on the grassy floor. *Dryden.*

OBNOMINOSITY. *n. f.* [from obnoxius, Latin.] Subjection; liability to punishment.

OBNOMINOSITY. *adv.* [from obnoxius, Latin.] In a state of subjection; in the state of one liable to punishment.

To OBNOMINATE. *v. a.* [obnoxius, Latin.] To cloud; to obscure.

O'BOLE. *n. f.* [obolus, Lat.] In pharmacy, twelve grains.

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [observatio, Latin.] The act of observing.

To OBSERVE. *v. a.* [observe, Lat.] To proclaim a contrary law for the dissolution of the former. *Dia.*

OBSERVANCE. *n. f.* [observatio, Fr. observance, Latin.]

1. Immodest; not agreeable to chastity of mind; causing bad ideas.

Chemos th' obscene dread of Moab's sons. *Milton.*

Words that were once chaste, by frequent use grow

and uncleanly. *Watts's Logic.*

2. Offensive; disgusting.

A girdle foul with grease binds his obscene attire. *Dryden.*

Home as they went, the sad discourse renew'd,

Of the relentless dame to death purfue'd,

And of the light obscene too lately view'd. *Dryden.*

3. Inauspicious; ill omened.

Care stuns thy walks, as at the cheerful light

The groaning ghosts, and birds obscene take flight. *Dryden.*

It is the sun's late like your's, to be displeasing to ows

and obscene animals, who cannot bear his lustre. *Pope's Letter.*

OBSERVANCE. *adj.* [from observatio, Latin.] In an impure and unchaste manner.

OBSERVANCE. *n. f.* [observatio, Fr. from observatio.] Impurity of

thought or language; unchastity; lewdness.

Mr. Cowley asserts plainly, that obscenity has no place in

wit. *Dryden.*

Those fables were tempered with the Italian severity, and

free from any note of infamy or obscenity. *Dryden.*

Thou art wickedly devout,

In Tiber ducking thrice by break of day,

To wash th' obscenities of night away. *Dryden.*

No pardon vile obscenity should find,

Tho' wit and art conspire to move your mind. *Pope.*

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [observatio, Lat.]

1. The act of darkening.

As to the sun and moon, their obscuration or change of

colour happens commonly before the eruption of a fiery

planet. *Newton.*

2. A state of being darkened.

OBSERVANCE. *adj.* [observatio, Fr. observance, Latin.]

1. Dark; unenlightened; gloomy; hindering light.

Who's curst his father or mother, his lamp shall be

out in obscure darkness. *Proverb.*

Who shall tempt with wand'ring feet

The dark unbottom'd infinite abyss,

And thro' the palpable obscure find out

His uncouth way? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

2. Living in the dark.

The obscure bird clamour'd the live-long night. *Shaksp.*

3. Not easily intelligible; obscure; difficult.

I explain some of the most obscure passages, and those

which are most necessary to be understood, and this according

to the manner wherein he used to express himself. *Dryden.*

4. Not noted; not observable.

He says, that he is an obscure person; one, I suppose, that

is in the dark. *Newton.*

To OBSERVE. *v. a.* [observare, Latin.]

1. To darken; to make dark.

Sudden the thunder blackens all the skies,

And the winds whistle, and the furies roll

Mountains on mountains, and obscure the pole. *Pope.*

2. To

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2. To make less visible.

They are all couched in a pit hard by Heme's oak, with

obscured lights; which at the very instant of Falstaff's and

our meeting, they will at once display to the night. *Shaksp.*

What must I hold a candle to my flames?

They in themselves, good foth, are too, too light.

Why, 'tis an office of discovery, love,

And I should be obscure'd. *Shaksp. M. of Venice.*

Thinking by this retirement to obscure himself from God,

he infringed the omniscience and essential ubiquity of his

maker. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. To make less intelligible.

By private consent it hath been used in dangerous times

to obscure writing, and make it hard to be read by others not

acquainted with the intrigue. *Holzer.*

There is scarce any duty which has been so obscured by the

writings of learned men, as this. *Watt.*

4. To make less glorious, beautiful, or illustrious.

Think'st thou, vain spirit, thy glories are the same,

And seest not now by thy ungrateful pride,

I know thee now by thy faded looks did hide. *Dryden.*

That shows me what thy faded looks did hide.

OBSCURITY. *adv.* [from obscurus, Latin.]

1. Not brightly; not luminously.

2. Out of sight; privately; without notice; not conspicuously.

Such was the site of this prodigious fire,

Which in mean buildings first obscurely bred,

From thence did soon to open streets aspire. *Dryden.*

There live retir'd,

Content thyself to be obscurely good. *Adhijon's Cate.*

Let him go, pursued by silent wrath,

Meet unexpected daggers in his way,

And in some distant land obscurely die. *Irene.*

3. Not clearly; not plainly.

OBSCURITY. *n. f.* [obscuritas, Lat. obscuritas, Fr.]

1. Darknes; want of light.

Lo! a day of darkness and obscurity, tribulation and an-

guish, upon the earth. *Esther xi. 8.*

Should Cynthia quit thee, Venus, and each star,

It would not form one thought dark as mine are:

I could lend them obscurity now, and say,

Out of myself there should be no more day. *Donne.*

2. Unnoticed state; privacy.

You are not for obscurity design'd,

But, like the sun, must cheer all human kind. *Dryd.*

3. Darknes of meaning.

Not to mention that obscurity that attends prophetic rap-

tures, there are divers things knowable by the bare light of

nature, which yet are so uneasy to be satisfactorily understood

by our imperfect intellects, that let them be delivered in the

clearest expressions, the notions themselves will yet appear

obscure. *Boyle on Colours.*

That this part of sacred scripture had difficulties in it:

many causes of obscurity did readily occur to me. *Locke.*

What lies beyond our positive idea towards infinity, lies

in obscurity, and has the undeterminate confusion of a nega-

tive idea, wherein I know I do not comprehend all I would

it being too large for a finite capacity. *Locke.*

OBSERVATION. *n. f.* [observatio, from observare, Lat.] Intreaty;

supplication.

That these were comprehended under the sacra, is mani-

fest from the old form of observation. *Silllingfleet.*

OBSERVANCE. *n. f.* [observance, French.] I know not whether

this word be not anciently mistaken for exequies, exequies,

Latin: this word, however, is apparently derived from ob-

sequium.]

1. Funeral rites; funeral solemnities.

There was Dorilus valiantly requiting his friends help, in

a great battle deprived of life, his obsèques being not more

solemnized by the tears of his partakers, than the blood of

his enemies. *Sidney, b. ii.*

Fair Juliet, that with angels doth remain,

Accept this latest favour at my hand;

That living honour'd thee, and being dead,

With funeral obsèques adorn thy tomb. *Shaksp.*

These tears are my sweet Rutland's obsèques.

I spare the widows tears, their woful cries,

And howling at their husbands obsèques;

How Thebes at these funerals did asside,

And with what gifts the mourning dames dismiss'd. *Dryden.*

His body shall be royally interr'd,

I will, myself,

Be the chief mourner at his obsèques.

Alas! poor Poll, my Indian talker dies,

Go birds and celebrate his obsèques.

It is found in the singular, perhaps more properly.

Or tune a song of victory to me,

Or to thyself, sing thine own obsèques.

Him I'll solemnly attend,

With silent obsèques and funeral train,

Home to his father's house. *Milton's Agnifites.*

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OBSEQUIOUS. *adj.* [from obsequium, Latin.]

1. Obedient; compliant; not resisting.

Adore not to the rising son, that you forget the father, who

rais'd you to this height; nor be you so obsequious to the fa-

ther, that you give just cause to the son to suspect that you

neglect him. *Bacon's Advice to Villiers.*

At his command th' up-rooted hills retir'd

Each to his place; they heard his voice, and went